

# Honoring Your Parents – Part 1

- It is a positive commandment to honor and be in awe of one's parents. Fulfilling this mitzvah is as serious as honoring and fearing Hashem.
- The obligation of this commandment includes honoring your parents in thought, speech, deed, and most importantly in your heart.
- It is preferable to fulfill anything your parents ask personally rather than hiring/asking someone else to do it.
- If necessary, you may ask/hire someone else to carry out your parents' wishes unless they ask you to specifically do it yourself.
- Whenever your parents ask you for something, it is a very big mitzvah to do it quickly and without delay.
- It is a mitzvah for parents to raise their children to honor them (not letting them sit in their chair, not letting them call them by name, etc). Parents should not waive these requirements.
- The mitzvah of kibbud av va'em applies even if the parents were not involved in raising their children.
- If you took money from your parents or used it for other than what they gave it to you for, you must return it or ask for forgiveness.
- Fulfilling this mitzvah correctly merits a long life, success and the Divine Presence will rest on him.
- Just as the reward for this mitzvah is great, so is the punishment. One who hurts his parents causes terrible decrees upon himself.

- To be in awe of your parents means not sitting in their chair, not contradicting them, not calling them by name, etc.
- You may not sit in your parents chair at home, shul, table or at work. Even if a chair is reserved for them (at a party), it is considered theirs.
- You may not contradict your parents in Torah or mundane talk even if your parent is wrong.
- If your parents ask you to correct them or check their work. You must be careful to do it respectfully. Ex: Don't say "You made a mistake" you can say "I found a mistake here."
- You are not allowed to interrupt your parents while they are talking.
- Honoring your parents in deeds is not only about immediate deeds but even indirect needs such as cleaning the house or shopping for them.
- You may not refer to your parents by name whether during their lifetimes or after they have passed away. Violating this is a Torah prohibition.
- Honoring your parents in deed means giving them food/drink, covering them, dressing them, escorting them when they go out, etc.
- When you are praying to Hashem for something, you don't need to ask Him to answer his prayers in the merit of his parents even if they are great people.
- It is a mitzvah to visit ones parents as much as possible because it makes them happy.
- One should try to kiss their parents hand and get a blessing from them as much as possible especially on Shabbat and Yom Tov.
- When one hosts his parents, he should offer them the best seats in the house.

- The truest honor a child can show is by being a good child. That way people will bless the parents who raised this person.
- One must stand to his full height for his parents when they come into a room.
- The obligation to stand up for your parents begins when you see them coming into the room.
- If your father goes up to the Sefer Torah in shul, you are obligated to stand for him the whole time he is up there.
- If one's parents are blind or have Alzheimer's, they are still obligated to stand for them.
- One must stand for his parents even if he is learning Torah or teaching a class.
- If you are walking with your parents, you should let them walk first and go through the door first.
- If you are walking with your parents, you must always walk to their left.
- If your parents ask you to hire a maid or a worker, the parents are responsible to pay for it.

